

Serial No.: 10/780,249

PD030025

**Remarks**

In view of the above amendments to the claims, the applicants submit that the claims now pending in the application satisfy the requirements of 35 U. S. C. § 112. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form.

**REJECTIONS**

A. 35 U. S. C. § 112

1. Claims 2-4 and 9

Claims 2-4 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U. S. C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, with regard to claim 2, the Examiner indicates that the phrase "reduced" is not defined in the claim. Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claim 2 (see OBJECTIONS below) to amend the phrase "reduced" and replace it with the phrase "reduced by at least one step width". Support for this amendment is found in the specification on page 18, lines 8-15.

Referring to claim 4, the Examiner indicates that the claim does not recite any limitation of the step width of the follow up signal. Applicants have amended claim 4 to recite that the step width of the follow-up signal "is 10 mV". Support for this amendment is found in the specification at page 6, lines 19-22.

Additionally, regarding claim 9, the Examiner indicates that the term "large" is a relative term and renders the claim indefinite. Applicants have amended claim 9 to delete the term "large" therefrom.

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In view of the above amendments to claims 1, 4 and 9, the basis for the Examiner's rejection thereof under 35 U. S. C. § 112, second paragraph has been removed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

### OBJECTIONS

#### A. Claims 5, 10 and 12

The Examiner objects to claims 5, 10 and 12 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Applicants have rewritten claims 5, 10 and 12 in independent form. In view of these amendments to the claims, the basis for the Examiners' objection thereto has been removed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

#### B. Claims 2-4 and 9

The Examiner has indicated that claims 2-4 and 9 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection under 35 U. S. C. § 112, second paragraph and to be written in independent form. Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitation of claim 2 and have amended claim 9 to be written in independent form. Applicants have also amended claims 1, 4 and 9 to overcome the rejections under 35 U. S. C. § 112, second paragraph. Applicants have cancelled claim 2. In view of these amendments to the claims, the basis for the Examiners' objection thereto has been removed. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Thus, the applicants believe that all of the claims now pending in the application satisfy the requirements of 35 U. S. C. § 112. Thus, the applicants believe that all of these claims are in allowable form. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring a rejection of any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Ms. Patricia A. Verlangieri, at (609) 734-6867, so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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